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Blue Emulsion.—A slightly modified form of Thiersch's formula:

1. To 300^{ccm} of melted gelatine add 120^{ccm} of a cold-saturated solution of green vitriol (ferro-sulphate).

2. To 600^{ccm} of melted gelatine add first 240^{ccm} of a saturated solution of oxalic acid, then 240^{ccm} of a cold saturated solution of red prussiate of potash (potassic ferricyanide).

3. No. 1 poured slowly into No. 2 while stirring vigorously; the mixture heated for fifteen minutes.

4. After cooling, the emulsion is pressed through netting, the vermicelli washed and spread on waxed paper for drying. In this case the vermicelli must be dried directly, as they do not melt well without the addition of oxalic acid.

The dry vermicelli are prepared for use by first soaking in cold water, and then heating with the addition of oxalic acid enough to reduce them to a liquid.

Black Emulsion. — 1. Soak 500 g. gelatine in two liters of water, in which 140 g. of common salt have previously been dissolved, and melt the mass on the water-bath.

2. Dissolve 300 g. nitrate of silver in 1 liter distilled water.

3. No. 2 poured very slowly into No. 1 while stirring. An extremely fine-grained emulsion may be obtained by using 3–4 times as much water in Nos. 1 and 2.

4. No. 3 pressed into vermicelli as above, and then mixed with No. 5 by clear daylight.

5. Mix 1½ liter cold-saturated potassic oxalate with 500^{ccm} of a cold-saturated solution of ferro-sulphate.

6. No. 4 mixed with No. 5 gives a thoroughly black emulsion, which should be washed several hours, again melted and finally poured in a thin layer on waxed paper.

A gray-black emulsion may be obtained by using 240 g. potassic bromide in the place of common salt in No. 1, the remaining operations being the same.

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SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

— The Trustees of Williams College engaged last spring, for a series of years, one of the tables at Dohrn's International Zoölogical Station at Naples. It has until recently been occupied by Dr. Edmund B. Wilson, a graduate of the Sheffield Scientific School, and of the Johns Hopkins University.

His occupancy of the table illustrates the principles which will guide the authorities of the college in making an appointment to this trust. Any American naturalist, already distinguished for research, may apply for the use of the table by writing to President Carter. And while a graduate of Williams College, of scholarly eminence, will be regarded as having a superior claim, the appointment will, in no case, be given to a naturalist who does not give evidence of ability to do original work.

It is expected that each occupant of the table will give, soon after his return to this country, a brief course of lectures in the Natural History lecture room, at Williams, on some subject connected with zoölogical work.

The table is now held by Professor Clarke, but it will probably be vacated on or before April 1st, 1884. The successful applicant will be informed of his appointment as soon as practicable after it is made, and the name will be also communicated to *Science* and the AMERICAN NATURALIST, for publication.—*Williams College, Dec., 1883.*

— The camels now running wild in Arizona were bought by the United States Government in Asia Minor. There were seventy-six camels in the first "colony." They were first employed in packing between Fort Tejon and Albuquerque, in some instances carrying 100 gallons of water to the animal, and going nine days without water themselves. Tiring of the camels, the Government condemned them and they were sold at Benicia to two Frenchmen, who took them to Reese river, where they were used in packing salt to Virginia City. Afterwards the animals were brought back to Arizona, and for some time were engaged in packing ore from Silver King to Yuma; but through some cause or other the Frenchmen became disgusted, there being no market for camels just then, and turned the camels loose upon the desert near Maricopa wells, and to-day they and their descendants are roaming through the Gila valley, increasing and multiplying and getting fat upon the succulent sagebrush and greasewood with which the country abounds.—*Tombstone Epitaph.*

— The Puget Sound *Argus* says: "Mount Adams, in Washington Territory, was recently ascended by a large party. They reached an elevation of 12,650 feet. The crater was penetrated a distance of 100 feet. There was a ceaseless drip of water from the roof of the ice-incased entrance, caused by a warm-air current coming from the slumbering fires far below, whence a loud, hissing noise arose. A rock hurled down produced a deafening reverberation." The height of Mount Adams, which is a conspicuous object for a great distance throughout this general region, is stated by Jewett, on the authority of Vansant, at 13,258, and by Petermann at 9570 feet, the latter is probably an error, as it is certainly one of the highest peaks of the Cascade mountains.

— Henry Holt & Co., New York, have recently published Packard's Briefer Zoölogy, as one of their American Science Series, Briefer Course. It is designed for use in grammar and high schools. In part re-written and made simpler than the larger Zoölogy by the same author, portions of that work have been retained, with additions regarding the habits of birds and common mammals. A number of illustrations, especially of birds and mammals, appear in it not contained in the larger volume. It is a book of 334 pages.

— An admission fee of fifty cents is now charged visitors to the ostrich farm at Anaheim, Cal. The object of the tariff is to discourage the rush of visitors, who seriously interfere with the work of the farm. The birds are breeding and require careful attention and freedom from disturbance.

— Major J. W. Powell is delivering some lectures on Social Evolution before the Philosophical Society of Washington.

— Mr. Robert B. Tolles died Nov. 18, 1883, at Boston. For many years Mr. Tolles held the highest place in America as the manufacturer of microscopic lenses and triplets, as well as other microscopic apparatus, devised by himself. His death is a loss to the scientific world.

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PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PHILADELPHIA ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES.—Oct. 3.—Professor Heilprin discussed the cotemporaneity of geological formations.

Oct. 11.—Rev. Dr. McCook spoke of the parasites infesting the cocoons of spiders. The cocoons of ichneumon flies, of the genus Pezomachus, were found in the cocoons of *Argiope riparia* and *Epeira atrata* of the Pacific coast, but these were in their turn infested by chalcidians. From the cocoon of the last-named species several small beetle larvæ of the genus Trogoderma were also extracted, together with some ants of the genus Solenopsis.

Oct. 18.—Mr. J. A. Ryder described *Gastrostomus bairdii*, a strange fish dredged off the Massachusetts coast at depths of from 500 to 3000 fathoms. A comparison was made between this species and the Eurypharynx of the Mediterranean. In the American form the jaws are still more remarkably developed, so that they are seven times the length of the head. The extensible membrane of the upper jaw, and the pouch pendant from the lower, cause the mouth to be a vast funnel, to which the body seems an insignificant appendage. Probably the food is partly digested, as well as collected and stored, in this receptacle. The gills are placed far behind the skull, the gill-openings are mere pores, the opercular bones are absent; a membranous fold is situated near the tail, and the ova, as in eels, drops directly into the alimentary canal. The eyes are functional.

Nov. 1.—Mr. J. Willcox detailed his observations upon the soil of parts of Canada and New York, and stated his belief that the great glacier had removed the original soil, and in its retreat had deposited the existing coat, always thinner than that to be found